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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE Die Wirtschaft, No 23, 1949.NEW COPPER ORE MINE IN EAST GERMANY

Copper-bearing ore veins have been found in the vicinity of Sangerhausen (Sachsen) at a depth of 400-600 meters. Two mining areas, the Northern and the Southern Field, have been located by mining experts between Sangerhausen and Mansfeld. They are spurs of the copper-bearing seam in the Southern Harz.

A temporary hoisting tower is situated on the edge of the town, and around it are a number of wooden and stone barracks and one large new building, which is the first of the future mine constructions. The new living quarters for the miners are about 500 meters from the mine and house 180 families in their red-roofed buildings. Living quarters for 4,000 to 5,000 miners who will be employed in this large and modern mine, and their families, will be built in a few years.

Copper-bearing ore was reached at 460 meters below the ground on 21 October 1949, in an operation employing 220 workers. To prevent a large seepage of water, which made drilling and blasting impossible, a concrete foundation of 35,000 kilograms of cement had to be poured into the shaft. Then 50,000 kilograms of liquid cement were pressed through this concrete foundation into the rocky ground under a pressure of 150 atmospheres. This prevented too great a water seepage near the shaft. After the seepage had diminished, the concrete foundation was blasted and digging operations continued. An amount of 200 liters of water per minute still seeped into the shaft. Further digging caused an increase in water seepage, and only by using a number of pumps could operations be continued. The shaft measures 6 meters in diameter.

Since the first piece of copper ore was brought up on 21 October, three plans have been advanced. The first provided for having the shaft dug by 1 June 1950 and beginning actual mining by 1 April 1952. The second provided for having the shaft dug by 1 December 1949 and having the underground filling depot built by 1 April 1950. However, this was achieved on 21 October 1949, 5 months ahead of schedule. Therefore, the third plan advanced the date of mining operations to 1 July 1951. Experimental mining will be carried out by using modern rock-cutting machines on the second level, which can be reached from the Roehrig shaft.

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Digging down to the fifth level will not mean the end of the job. A ventilation shaft has to be built and connected to the main shaft to supply the necessary amount of fresh air. The already existing Roehrig shaft is to be used for this purpose. The connecting tunnel between the two shafts will be 3,000 meters long. Modern machinery will be provided to speed up operations.

Plant manager von Zglinicki deserves credit for promoting technical improvements in the Mansfeld mining area, and also plant engineer Frank, who aided actively in carrying out these measures.

The copper ore will be carried to the smelter by means of a cable car line approximately 20 kilometers long. The Sangerhausen cable car is a new development and deserves attention. Sangerhausen is on the road to becoming an industrial center of the Land.

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